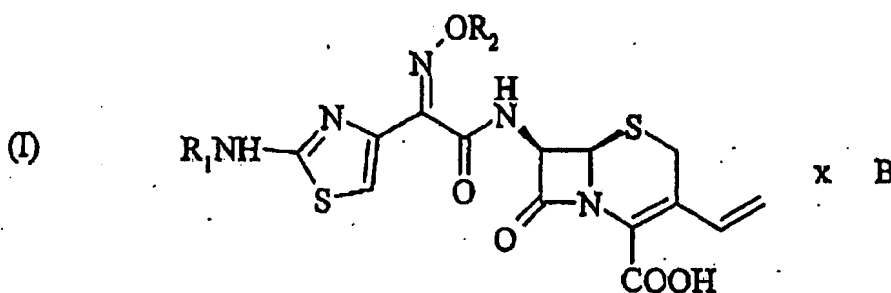


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A An isolated salt as set forth in formula (I)



wherein

- R_1 is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from C_1 - C_6 acyl group ~~optionally substituted with one or more chlorine or fluorine atoms~~ formyl, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;
- B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines ~~[[;-a solvate]]~~ or an adduct thereof, ~~[[excluding tributylamine;]]~~ wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein